

Transcript from Conference Call with applicants of FY2019-RFGA-MC-902 (Emerging)

May 23, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

Lisa Hobbs welcomed participants and acknowledged those attending the call:

Attending: Bamberg School District Two – Schrendria Robinson
Heritage Community Services – Anne Badgely, Tammy Bryant, Sally Raymond
DHEC: Kimberly Seals - Director for Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCH)
Lucy Gibson - Director for Division of Children’s Health and Perinatal Svcs. (MCH)
Lisa Hobbs - Manager, Abstinence Education Program (MCH)
Vivian McCray – Coordinator, Abstinence Education Program (MCH)

Kimberly Seals

Thank you for making this call on such short notice. We wanted to offer an opportunity to discuss the unique circumstance in which we did not make an award for FY2019-RFGA-MC-902 (Emerging). In order to clarify why we did not make an award, we wanted to host a call to discuss some of the comments from the review as well as some information that was shared as a part of the process. In order to ensure that all applicants receive this information, today’s call is being recorded and will be made available upon request by next week. You will be able to review this information at a later time and those applicants that may be interested but were not able to be on the call today will have an opportunity to listen with the provided link.

We will not be taking questions today, but will provide each organization an opportunity to ask questions. Please send any questions related to today’s call in writing to Lisa Hobbs by COB on Friday, May 25. Responses to all questions received by Friday May 25th will be posted by Friday, June 1. The recording will also be made available by Friday, June 1. I will turn it over to Lisa Hobbs, Program Manager for Abstinence Education, (who) will discuss why we did not make an award for FY2019-RFGA-MC-902 (Emerging).

Lisa Hobbs

Thank you for the applications that you put together for those who submitted applications. We wanted to share why, at this time, no award has been made. I have a few points that I wanted to share with you:

- The current wording of state budget provisos to DHEC for Abstinence Education (Evidence-based and Emerging) stipulates that awards shall be made only to nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations.
- One proviso is entitled **Evidence-based** and the other **Emerging**, indicating an intent for a distinction in the two funding opportunities. Consequently, a program or organization using the same curriculum in the same manner should not receive funding under both opportunities.
- The budget provisos for both evidence-based and emerging programs provide that “[t]he programs implemented by the entity awarded a contract pursuant to this proviso may not violate any portion of the South Carolina Comprehensive Health Education Act when implemented in a school setting. An entity that violates any portion of the South Carolina

Comprehensive Health Education Act must reimburse the State for all funds disbursed.” The State Board of Education approved the *SC Academic Standards for Health and Safety Education* on August 8, 2017. These standards provide the scope and sequence for age appropriate comprehensive health education in school settings. The standards require the selection of evidence-based materials, strategies, and/or programs that have been proven to be effective through rigorous evaluation. Within the standards, evidence-based programs are defined as “programs or interventions supported by credible scientific studies that find associated decreases in risk behaviors or adverse outcomes” (CDC, 2012). Programs implemented in a school setting must adhere to these standards, **including emerging programs**.

- In reviewing applications, it became apparent that clarification of the above-referenced factors and requirements were needed before any funding recommendations for the emerging proviso funds could be made. Therefore, the Department is revising the RFGA with clarifications on the definition of Emerging programs and incorporating the requirements of the 2017 *SC Academic Standards for Health and Safety Education*. <https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/health-education/standards/>
- The program will make these clarifications/revisions to the RFGA and re-post as quickly as possible. As we always do with the RFGA process, we will allow a Q & A period once the RFGA is posted. We realize that this may delay the start time of programs beyond July 1, 2018.

Kimberly Seals – to recap:

- All interested applicants can submit question to Lisa Hobbs by COB on Friday, May 25th. Once we receive the questions, we will compile the responses and will post them on the website by Friday, June 1, 2018.
- There will still be a standard 3-day period to submit questions after the RFGA is re-posted. We anticipate getting the RFGA re-posted very soon. It requires revision and those revisions must be approved on several levels. We will move swiftly to get that up as soon as possible. The information discussed today will be incorporated in such a way that you can see what the *SC Academic Standards for Health and Safety Education(are)*. They can also be found via internet search.
- This information is recorded and will be available by next Friday, June 1. We thank you for your applications and we look forward to new proposals after the RFGA is posted. Thank you.